

Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders

March 1976



FOR RELEASE: April 30, 1976 2:00 P.M.

William Menth
763-2502

SERIES: M3-1(76)-3

All figures in text below are in seasonally adjusted current dollars

New orders for durable goods rose \$3,015 million or 6.7 percent in March, the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, reported today. This increase from \$45,017 million in February to \$48,032 million is the largest percentage increase since the 7.3 percent increase reported in April, 1975. Most of the increase was reported in the aircraft and parts industry where new orders rose from \$1,737 million in February to \$2,800 million in March—an increase of \$1,063 million or 61.2 percent. Nearly all other durable goods industries also reported increases with Primary Metals showing the second largest increase this month—9.8 percent or \$655 million to \$7,333 million. Since most non-durable goods industries do not have unfilled orders, the new orders for non-durable goods preliminary reflect the small increase in sales. The new orders for all manufactured products increased 3.5 percent or \$3,123 million to \$93,366 million.

Since the new orders received exceeded shipments unfilled orders increased 0.5 percent or \$586 million in March to \$119,493 million. With the exception of an \$80 million increase in July, 1975, this is the first increase in the unfilled orders backlog since this series began to decline 17 months ago. Since September, 1974, when unfilled orders were reported at \$143,124 million unfilled orders have declined \$24,217 million or 16.9 percent with an average decline exceeding \$1,400 million or 1.0 percent each month. The March increase in unfilled orders is shown predominantly in the aircraft and parts industry (increasing \$670 million or 3.4 percent to \$20,439 million) the motor vehicle and parts industry (increasing 9.6 percent to \$3,553 million) and the primary metals industries (increasing \$205 million or 1.5 percent to \$14,022 million). Unfilled orders for non-durable goods remained virtually unchanged at \$5,384 million.

Shipments of all manufactured products increased 2.1 percent or \$1,870 million to \$92,782 million. The increase in durable goods shipments of 3.8 percent or

\$1,746 million to \$47,446 million was counterbalanced by a small increase in shipments of non-durable goods of 0.3 percent or \$124 million to \$45,336 million. The increase in durable goods was largely due to a 10.7 percent or \$815 million increase in motor vehicle and parts and a 4.8 percent or \$170 million increase in primary metals. Most non-durable goods industries showed little change from February with a 2.9 percent or \$237 million increase in chemicals being offset by a 3.1 percent or \$184 million decrease in petroleum and coal products.

Inventories held by manufacturers increased 0.5 percent or \$762 million to \$148,090 million. The increase was evenly divided between durable goods industries which increased 0.4 percent or \$342 million to \$96,038 million and non-durable goods industries which increased 0.8 percent or \$420 million to \$52,052 million. Approximately one-third of the durable goods increase was the shipbuilding and railroad industries with most other durable goods manufacturers showing smaller increases. Inventories held by apparel manufacturers and petroleum and coal products manufacturers accounted for over half the non-durable goods increase.

SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES

The figures on the durable goods industries in this report supersede those issued earlier in the advance report on durable goods. The present report is based on more complete reporting, but the estimates are also considered preliminary. Final figures will appear as historical data in the report to be published for next month. The advance report durable goods for April is scheduled for release on May 21, 1976 and the full report is scheduled for release on June 2, 1976.

This report contains data on an unadjusted and seasonally adjusted basis. However, the data are not adjusted for price changes. For an explanation of terms used in this report see appendix following table 5.



U.S. Department of Commerce BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Inquiries concerning these figures should be addressed to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Industry Division, Washington, D.C. 20233. For sale by the Subscriber Services Section (Publications), Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 or any Department of Commerce District Office. Price: 15 cents per copy, \$1.50 per year.

Table 1.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Shipments						Total inventories					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹		
	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Mar. 1975	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Mar. 1975
All manufacturing industries:												
Total.....	92,782	90,912	89,276	95,892	91,827	80,283	148,090	147,328	147,030	148,857	148,093	151,930
Total, excluding transportation.....	81,049	79,966	79,008	83,840	80,591	71,221	126,604	125,986	125,917	127,208	126,624	130,649
Durable goods industries, total.	47,446	45,700	44,570	49,325	46,129	40,901	96,038	95,696	95,664	96,629	96,039	100,482
Stone, clay, and glass products.	2,485	2,392	2,329	2,483	2,209	1,997	3,588	3,576	3,632	3,705	3,660	3,906
Primary metals, total.....	7,127	6,780	6,775	7,588	6,910	6,679	14,016	13,924	13,903	14,104	14,081	13,472
Blast furnaces, steel mills.	3,704	3,534	3,590	3,963	3,587	3,617	7,836	7,764	7,718	7,851	7,881	6,934
Nonferrous metals.....	2,234	2,086	2,058	2,368	2,141	1,922	4,643	4,653	4,636	4,704	4,691	4,722
All other primary metals.....	1,189	1,160	1,127	1,257	1,182	1,140	1,537	1,507	1,549	1,549	1,509	1,816
Fabricated metal products total.....	5,941	5,735	5,621	6,060	5,663	4,783	10,955	10,958	11,011	10,947	10,842	12,077
Metal cans, barrels, and drums.....	578	667	568	560	609	490	921	896	872	914	879	1,234
Machinery, except electrical, total.....	7,894	7,723	7,654	8,559	8,063	7,900	20,794	20,821	20,976	20,975	21,013	22,592
Engines and turbines.....	690	690	621	808	663	659	1,760	1,753	1,778	1,761	1,781	1,958
Farm machinery and equipment.	760	830	854	909	898	877	1,831	1,846	1,845	1,914	1,920	2,232
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment.	1,548	1,568	1,546	1,668	1,705	1,715	4,931	4,919	4,912	4,990	4,969	4,880
Metalworking machinery.....	522	499	516	584	521	579	1,618	1,656	1,717	1,620	1,661	1,899
General industrial machinery	869	849	865	903	868	785	1,968	1,971	2,014	1,996	1,986	1,996
Electrical machinery, total...	5,923	5,878	5,813	6,103	5,927	5,211	13,121	13,136	13,168	13,112	12,980	14,337
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus.....	1,197	1,222	1,231	1,265	1,262	1,104	2,819	2,836	2,837	2,836	2,836	3,207
Household appliances.....	864	920	887	938	896	738	1,175	1,088	1,088	1,168	1,099	1,259
Radio and TV.....	410	469	488	385	449	353	1,042	1,020	1,088	982	943	1,071
Communication equipment.....	1,338	1,284	1,197	1,340	1,254	1,254	4,016	4,091	4,071	4,073	4,071	4,265
Transportation equipment, total	11,733	10,946	10,268	12,052	11,236	9,062	21,486	21,342	21,113	21,649	21,469	21,281
Motor vehicles and parts....	8,412	7,597	7,071	8,572	7,876	5,727	6,138	6,083	5,987	6,236	6,211	6,366
Aircraft, missiles, and parts.....	2,129	2,221	2,005	2,212	2,241	2,280	12,025	12,072	11,938	12,136	12,080	11,370
Shipbuilding and railroad equipment.....	572	576	653	586	610	611	2,667	2,537	2,547	2,590	2,494	2,705
Instruments and related products, total.....	1,592	1,531	1,585	1,595	1,484	1,358	3,753	3,790	3,850	3,765	3,758	4,145
Scientific and engineering..	856	781	825	871	789	724	1,953	1,948	1,962	1,955	1,934	2,099
All other instruments and related products.....	736	750	760	724	695	634	1,800	1,842	1,888	1,810	1,824	2,046
All other durable goods industries.....	4,751	4,715	4,525	4,885	4,637	3,911	8,325	8,149	8,011	8,372	8,236	8,672
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	45,336	45,212	44,706	46,567	45,698	39,382	52,052	51,632	51,366	52,228	52,054	51,448
Food and kindred products, total.....	14,422	14,362	14,597	14,673	14,302	13,548	11,870	11,774	11,858	11,722	11,915	11,594
Meat products.....	3,167	3,097	3,196	3,145	3,029	2,651	1,347	1,296	1,224	1,371	1,330	1,184
Fats and oils.....	1,162	1,151	1,215	1,162	1,217	1,230	950	923	972	1,004	986	916
Tobacco products.....	688	635	652	670	604	591	3,350	3,371	3,244	3,520	3,567	3,226
Textile mill products.....	3,323	3,295	3,228	3,536	3,266	2,543	4,645	4,709	4,681	4,749	4,734	4,479
Paper and allied products, total.....	3,756	3,911	3,729	3,917	3,992	3,164	4,733	4,686	4,684	4,719	4,664	4,841
Pulp, paper, etc.....	1,759	1,813	1,758	1,840	1,836	1,412	1,808	1,788	1,807	1,810	1,789	1,785
Paperboard containers.....	876	886	843	896	881	771	1,242	1,234	1,229	1,239	1,223	1,321
All other paper containers..	1,121	1,212	1,128	1,181	1,275	981	1,683	1,664	1,648	1,670	1,652	1,735
Chemicals and allied products, total.....	8,294	8,057	7,931	8,661	8,239	7,011	11,067	11,039	11,037	11,222	11,232	11,020
Industrial chemicals, except pigments.....	2,788	2,645	2,664	2,882	2,737	2,207	3,067	3,001	3,038	3,082	3,052	3,050
Drugs, soap, and toiletries.	2,178	2,111	2,068	2,229	2,193	1,995	3,688	3,692	3,741	3,695	3,695	3,797
Petroleum and coal products...	5,788	5,972	5,818	5,757	6,132	4,875	4,492	4,378	4,321	4,394	4,302	4,112
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	2,216	2,173	2,084	2,329	2,199	1,914	3,059	3,036	3,053	3,124	3,079	3,240
All other nondurable goods industries.....	6,849	6,807	6,667	7,024	6,964	5,736	8,836	8,639	8,488	8,778	8,561	8,936

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP--Continued

Millions of dollars

Industry group	New orders						Unfilled orders					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹		
	Mar. 1976 ^D	Feb. 1976 ^F	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^D	Feb. 1976 ^F	Mar. 1975	Mar. 1976 ^D	Feb. 1976 ^F	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^D	Feb. 1976 ^F	Mar. 1975
All manufacturing industries:												
Total.....	93,366	90,243	88,190	96,909	92,040	77,343	119,493	118,907	119,576	120,651	119,636	129,349
Total, excluding transportation.....	80,796	79,600	78,569	84,122	81,007	68,899	87,757	88,008	88,375	88,751	88,472	96,037
Durable goods industries, total.	48,032	45,017	43,284	50,283	46,181	37,912	114,109	113,524	114,209	115,168	114,212	125,590
Primary metals, total.....	7,333	6,678	6,615	8,029	7,352	5,401	14,022	13,817	13,920	14,618	14,178	17,362
Blast furnaces, steel mills.	3,748	3,434	3,770	4,196	3,873	2,583	9,406	9,362	9,463	9,745	9,512	11,271
Nonferrous metals.....	2,440	2,123	1,949	2,611	2,316	1,805	2,763	2,557	2,521	2,976	2,734	2,964
Fabricated metal products.....	5,583	5,575	5,405	5,855	5,473	4,695	16,952	17,310	17,470	17,029	17,234	19,101
Machinery, except electrical, total.....	7,521	7,404	7,363	8,252	7,818	7,439	24,064	24,435	24,755	24,281	24,587	26,137
Engines and turbines.....	662	677	633	801	629	620	6,676	6,704	6,717	6,693	6,700	6,985
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment.	1,288	1,306	1,435	1,489	1,467	1,700	5,242	5,502	5,764	5,279	5,458	7,055
Metalworking machinery.....	527	476	504	578	492	474	1,588	1,582	1,605	1,566	1,571	2,242
General industrial machinery.	838	771	728	873	858	833	3,287	3,317	3,396	3,388	3,420	3,474
Electrical machinery, total...	6,068	6,043	5,860	6,242	5,993	4,809	18,922	18,778	18,612	18,847	18,710	19,635
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus.....	1,207	1,146	1,166	1,300	1,224	984	5,395	5,385	5,461	5,413	5,378	6,116
Household appliances.....	857	910	916	938	895	740	124	131	142	134	134	118
Radio and TV.....	419	454	494	398	445	292	474	465	480	452	439	349
Communication equipment.....	1,402	1,355	1,368	1,348	1,233	1,162	7,225	7,161	7,090	7,206	7,199	7,120
Transportation equipment, total.....	12,570	10,643	9,621	12,787	11,033	8,444	31,736	30,899	31,201	31,900	31,164	33,312
Aircraft, missiles, and parts.....	2,800	1,737	1,619	2,713	1,743	1,748	20,439	19,769	20,253	20,307	19,805	20,954
Shipbuilding and railroad equipment.....	427	761	174	524	902	655	7,727	7,871	7,685	7,946	8,008	8,644
All other durable goods industries.....	8,957	8,674	8,420	9,118	8,512	7,124	8,413	8,285	8,251	8,493	8,339	8,043
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	45,334	45,226	44,906	46,626	45,859	39,431	5,384	5,383	5,367	5,483	5,424	3,759
Industries with unfilled orders.....	10,655	10,711	10,597	11,059	10,924	8,778	5,384	5,383	5,367	5,483	5,424	3,759
Industries without unfilled orders.....	34,679	34,515	34,309	35,567	34,935	30,653	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero. ^D Preliminary. ^F Revised.
¹ Adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations.

Table 2.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, FOR MARKET CATEGORIES AND SUPPLEMENTARY SERIES
(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Mar. 1975	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^r	Mar. 1975
	Shipments						Total inventories					
All manufacturing industries, total..	92,782	90,912	89,276	95,892	91,827	80,283	148,090	147,328	147,030	148,857	148,093	151,930
Durable goods industries, total.....	47,446	45,700	44,570	49,325	46,129	40,901	96,038	95,696	95,664	96,629	96,039	100,482
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	45,336	45,212	44,706	46,567	45,698	39,382	52,052	51,632	51,366	52,228	52,054	51,448
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	8,175	8,345	8,251	8,592	8,476	6,881	13,193	12,840	12,710	13,138	12,773	13,523
Consumer staples.....	17,930	17,717	17,831	18,167	17,625	16,434	19,591	19,527	19,466	19,583	19,812	19,515
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	11,815	11,716	11,513	12,520	12,003	11,780	37,706	37,695	37,711	37,967	37,855	39,492
Automotive equipment.....	9,755	8,849	8,262	10,010	9,059	6,774	7,654	7,582	7,495	7,824	7,776	8,148
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	7,336	7,052	6,849	7,294	6,595	5,507	12,673	12,605	12,704	12,899	12,711	13,229
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	37,771	37,233	36,570	39,309	38,069	32,907	57,273	57,079	56,944	57,446	57,166	58,023
Supplementary series: ²												
Household durable goods industries.....	3,577	3,652	3,602	3,723	3,649	3,049	6,449	6,253	6,212	6,405	6,215	7,020
Capital goods industries.....	13,322	13,124	12,811	14,015	13,466	13,147	42,351	42,350	42,310	42,538	42,379	43,891
Nondefense.....	11,457	11,225	10,959	12,163	11,630	11,443	34,293	34,505	34,668	34,476	34,553	37,017
Defense.....	1,865	1,899	1,852	1,852	1,836	1,704	8,058	7,845	7,642	8,062	7,826	6,874
	New orders						Unfilled orders					
All manufacturing industries, total..	93,366	90,243	88,190	96,909	92,040	77,343	119,493	118,907	119,576	120,651	119,636	129,349
Durable goods industries, total.....	48,032	45,017	43,284	50,283	46,181	37,912	114,109	113,524	114,209	115,168	114,212	125,590
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	45,334	45,226	44,906	46,626	45,859	39,431	5,384	5,383	5,367	5,483	5,424	3,759
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	8,254	8,287	8,249	8,666	8,467	6,811	2,429	2,347	2,421	2,385	2,317	2,016
Consumer staples.....	17,933	17,701	17,866	18,162	17,616	16,413						
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	11,486	11,386	10,688	12,150	11,761	11,000	59,482	59,498	59,831	59,862	59,937	63,615
Automotive equipment.....	10,066	8,845	8,480	10,306	9,062	6,644						
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	6,780	6,938	6,755	6,946	6,489	5,530	15,345	15,901	16,016	15,400	15,749	17,322
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	38,847	37,086	36,152	40,679	38,645	30,945	42,237	41,161	41,308	43,004	41,633	46,396
Supplementary series: ²												
Household durable goods industries.....	3,616	3,601	3,588	3,764	3,650	2,959	1,724	1,668	1,720	1,685	1,643	1,462
Capital goods industries.....	13,663	12,536	11,846	14,301	13,007	11,946	67,221	66,879	67,465	67,546	67,261	72,679
Nondefense.....	11,003	10,710	10,351	11,880	11,253	10,377	41,449	41,902	42,415	41,759	42,042	47,683
Defense.....	2,660	1,826	1,497	2,421	1,754	1,569	25,772	24,977	25,050	25,787	25,219	24,996

During 1968 manufacturers in ordnance, communications, aircraft and aircraft parts, and shipbuilding industries began to provide aggregate figures on shipments, orders, and total inventories of work performed for the Department of Defense. The results of these reports are included in the defense series. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. ¹Shipments and new orders adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders and inventories as of end of month. ²The supplementary series are regroupings of the separate industry categories as follows:

Household durable goods industries - Household furniture; kitchen articles and pottery; cutlery, handtools, and hardware; household appliances; ophthalmic goods, watches, and clocks; and miscellaneous personal goods.
Capital goods industries - The capital goods industries series is comparable to the previous Producers' Capital Goods and the Defense Products old series categories.
Nondefense products - Machinery, except electrical excluding farm machinery and equipment and machine shops, electrical machinery excluding household appliances and electronic components, and the nondefense portions of shipbuilding and repairing and railroad equipment, communication equipment, aircraft and aircraft parts, and ordnance.
Defense products - Based on separate reports on defense work filed by large defense contractors in the following industries: ordnance, communications, aircraft and aircraft parts, and shipbuilding. The data are comparable to those published annually in the MA-175, Shipments of Defense-Oriented Industries, for the specified industries.

Table 3.--MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS MONTH-TO-MONTH AND LONG TERM PERCENT CHANGES

(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Item and industry group	Month-to-month			Average monthly rates of change				Average, 1970-1975	
	Feb.- Mar. 1976	Jan.- Feb. 1976	Dec. 1975- Jan. 1976	3 months			12 months	Average rise	Average decline
				Dec. 1975- Mar. 1976	Sept.- Dec. 1975	June- Sept. 1975	Mar. 1975- Mar. 1976		
Shipments:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+2.1	+1.8	+1.9	+1.9	+0.6	-2.1	+1.5	+1.4	-1.6
Durable goods industries, total.....	+3.8	+2.5	+2.0	+2.8	+0.4	+2.0	-1.6	+1.5	-2.2
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	+0.3	+1.1	+1.8	+1.1	+0.7	-2.2	+1.4	+1.5	-1.2
Total inventories:									
All manufacturing industries.....	-0.5	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	-0.0	-0.4	-0.2	+0.9	-0.3
New orders:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+3.5	+2.3	+1.7	+2.5	+0.5	+2.3	+2.0	+1.8	-1.9
Durable goods industries, total.....	+6.7	+4.0	+1.0	+3.9	+0.4	+2.5	+2.5	+2.4	-2.7
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	-0.2	+0.7	+2.3	+1.1	+0.6	-2.2	+1.4	+1.5	-1.3
Unfilled orders:									
Durable goods industries, total.....	-0.5	-0.6	-1.1	-0.4	-0.7	-0.3	-0.7	+1.7	-1.2

Table 4.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES, BY STAGE OF FABRICATION, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

Millions of dollars

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^P	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^P	Mar. 1975	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^P	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^P	Mar. 1975
	Total						Materials and supplies					
All manufacturing industries, total..	148,090	147,328	147,030	148,857	148,093	151,930	51,629	51,170	51,068	51,434	51,144	54,256
Durable goods industries, total.....	96,038	95,696	95,664	96,629	96,039	100,482	31,402	31,148	31,176	30,987	30,850	33,883
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	3,588	3,576	3,632	3,705	3,660	3,906	1,389	1,354	1,333	1,397	1,358	1,465
Primary metals.....	14,016	13,924	13,903	14,104	14,081	13,472	6,524	6,438	6,384	6,328	6,368	6,054
Machinery /electrical and nonelectrical..	33,915	33,957	34,144	34,087	33,993	36,929	10,105	10,081	10,200	10,089	10,051	11,538
Transportation equipment.....	21,486	21,342	21,113	21,649	21,469	21,281	4,593	4,565	4,484	4,623	4,551	4,830
All other durable goods industries.....	23,033	22,897	22,872	23,084	22,836	24,894	8,791	8,710	8,775	8,550	8,522	9,996
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	52,052	51,632	51,366	52,228	52,054	51,448	20,227	20,022	19,892	20,447	20,294	20,373
Chemicals and allied products.....	11,067	11,039	11,037	11,222	11,232	11,020	4,295	4,285	4,327	4,339	4,303	4,485
Petroleum and coal products.....	4,492	4,378	4,321	4,394	4,302	4,112	1,218	1,159	1,148	1,196	1,156	1,031
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	3,059	3,036	3,053	3,124	3,079	3,240	1,080	1,047	1,064	1,064	1,032	1,126
All other nondurable goods industries....	33,434	33,179	32,955	33,488	33,441	33,076	13,634	13,531	13,353	13,848	13,803	13,731
	Work in process						Finished goods					
All manufacturing industries, total..	48,653	48,710	48,609	49,058	48,930	49,393	47,808	47,448	47,353	48,365	48,019	48,281
Durable goods industries, total.....	40,751	40,805	40,779	41,148	41,029	41,921	23,885	23,743	23,709	24,494	24,160	24,678
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	495	510	504	535	522	537	1,704	1,712	1,795	1,773	1,780	1,904
Primary metals.....	4,281	4,278	4,278	4,395	4,386	4,152	3,211	3,208	3,241	3,381	3,327	3,266
Machinery /electrical and nonelectrical..	14,338	14,438	14,572	14,403	14,473	15,598	9,472	9,438	9,372	9,595	9,469	9,793
Transportation equipment.....	14,958	14,875	14,695	15,076	14,936	14,532	1,935	1,902	1,934	1,950	1,982	1,919
All other durable goods industries.....	6,679	6,704	6,730	6,739	6,712	7,102	7,563	7,483	7,367	7,795	7,602	7,796
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	7,902	7,905	7,830	7,910	7,901	7,472	23,923	23,705	23,644	23,871	23,859	23,603
Chemicals and allied products.....	1,787	1,760	1,782	1,808	1,783	1,715	4,985	4,994	4,928	5,075	5,146	4,820
Petroleum and coal products.....	1,204	1,174	1,151	1,198	1,147	1,088	2,070	2,045	2,022	2,000	1,999	1,993
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	493	506	502	495	506	521	1,486	1,483	1,487	1,565	1,541	1,593
All other nondurable goods industries....	4,418	4,465	4,395	4,409	4,465	4,148	15,382	15,183	15,207	15,231	15,173	15,197

^PPreliminary.^TRevised.

Table 5.--RATIO OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES TO SHIPMENTS AND UNFILLED ORDERS TO SHIPMENTS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry group	Inventories - shipments ratio				Unfilled orders - shipments ratio ¹ (months' backlog)			
	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^F	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1975	Mar. 1976 ^P	Feb. 1976 ^F	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1975
All manufacturing industries, total.....	1.60	1.62	1.65	1.95	2.33	2.37	2.44	2.96
Durable goods industries, total.....	2.02	2.09	2.15	2.54	2.82	2.88	2.95	3.58
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	1.44	1.49	1.56	1.89	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Primary metals.....	1.97	2.05	2.05	2.13	1.97	2.04	2.05	2.65
Fabricated metals.....	1.84	1.91	1.96	2.58	3.16	3.42	3.46	4.54
Machinery, except electrical.....	2.63	2.70	2.74	3.07	3.05	3.16	3.23	3.83
Electrical machinery.....	2.22	2.23	2.27	2.83	3.19	3.19	3.20	3.89
Transportation equipment.....	1.83	1.95	2.06	2.55	5.55	5.54	5.94	6.71
Instruments and related products.....	2.36	2.48	2.43	3.04	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	1.15	1.14	1.15	1.34	0.51	0.50	0.52	0.44
Food and kindred products.....	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.88	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tobacco products.....	4.87	5.31	4.98	5.06	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textile mill products.....	1.40	1.43	1.45	1.83	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Paper and allied products.....	1.26	1.20	1.26	1.60	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Chemicals and allied products.....	1.33	1.37	1.39	1.62	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Petroleum and coal products.....	0.78	0.73	0.74	0.86	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	1.38	1.40	1.46	1.74	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

(NA) Not available. ^PPreliminary. ^FRevised. (X) Not applicable.

¹Excludes the following industries with no unfilled order: Wooden containers; glass containers; metal cans, barrels and drums; motor vehicle assembly operations; foods and related products; tobacco; apparel and related products; chemicals; petroleum and coal products; and rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.

Appendix

The following is a description of the survey and definitions used. These are provided to clarify the meaning of the items involved and do not represent any revisions from those definitions previously employed.

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY

The Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders survey provides monthly figures that are comparable to the annual totals published each year in the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM). The ASM is based on a sample of approximately 60,000 manufacturing establishments drawn from the 5-year census universe of about 310,000 establishments. In the ASM, each manufacturing establishment provides data on employment, payrolls, shipments, cost of materials, capital expenditures, and inventories as well as other selected items. The establishments do not provide information on unfilled orders or new orders. Since the ASM is establishment based, it provides data for each of the 425 manufacturing industries in the Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC) and area data for industry groups.

The monthly survey M3-1 does not provide information at the complete SIC industry detail because of the smaller size of the reporting panel and the fact that most companies cannot provide shipments, inventories, and orders data monthly for individual establishments.

The monthly reporting panel consists of approximately 5,000 reporting units and includes virtually all companies with 1,000 or more employees and a sample of the smaller ones. The reporting unit typically comprises the entire operations of a company although many of the larger diversified companies file separate divisional type reports for their operations in different industries.

Most of the reporting units include mixed industry activity even within the broad industry categories of the monthly survey. The survey methodology assumes that the month-to-month changes of the reporting units classified in each industry category represent effectively the month-to-month movements of the establishments in the SIC industries which make up the category. Thus, the monthly reports are used to update the ASM estimates by using a link relative of matched companies in each industry.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Value of Shipments—Shipments in the monthly survey are equivalent to value of shipments as reported

in the ASM which are received or receivable net selling values, f.o.b. plant, after discounts and allowances and excluding freight charges and excise taxes. Included in shipments are the value of all products sold, transferred to other plants of the same company, or shipped on consignment.

Shipments also include receipts of establishments in the industry for contract work performed for others, resales, receipts for miscellaneous activities such as the sale of scrap and refuse; value of installation and repair work performed by employees of the plant; and value of research and development performed at the plant. In the aircraft industry and shipbuilding, the value of work done in a given year varies considerably from the value of shipments because of the long lead time between the input of the materials and labor and the shipments of the completed aircraft or ship. In the annual survey, therefore, the value of work done during the year is requested rather than the value of shipments.

The value of shipments figures developed from the ASM contain duplication at the all manufacturing and industry group levels since the products of some industries are used as materials by other industries within the industry group. With the exception of motor vehicles, it is not significant at the 4-digit SIC group level. Since the M3-1 industry categories typically are groupings of industries, this duplication is significant for the all manufacturing, durable goods and nondurable goods categories and the various market groups. The significance of the duplication within the specific M3-1 industry groups varies depending on the 4-digit industry composition of these groups. It is most pronounced in a few highly integrated industry areas such as primary metals and motor vehicles and parts.

Since most monthly reports are for the entire company or major divisions rather than establishments, the companies are requested to report net sales, i.e., total company billings after discounts and allowances. Companies which file divisional reports are requested to treat transfers from one division of the company to another as if they were net sales to outside customers. Although this definition of shipments in the monthly reports differs from that used in the annual establishment reports, it is assumed that the month-to-month changes in company sales in the industry are representative of the month-to-month shipments of the establishments in the industry.

Inventories—End-of-month inventories in the monthly survey are identical in definition to the end-of-year inventories in the ASM. In the ASM, respondents are asked to report inventories of individual establishments at approximate current cost if

feasible; otherwise, "at book values." Since different methods of inventory valuation are used (LIFO, FIFO, etc.), the definition of the aggregate inventories for establishments in an industry is not precise. The figures on the change in inventories from one period to the next are of greater significance than the actual aggregates.

Inventories are reported by stage of fabrication: (a) finished goods; (b) work in process; and (c) materials, supplies, fuel, and other inventories. In using inventories by stage of fabrication at the all manufacturing and 2-digit industry levels as well as for the durable and nondurable goods sectors, it should be noted that a finished product of one industry may be a raw material for another industry at the next stage of fabrication. Insofar as the durable and nondurable goods sectors and also the 2-digit industry groups contain industries with successive stages of processing, the same type of commodity may be included under different inventory categories in the aggregate statistics.

New Orders Received and Unfilled Orders—Orders as reported in the monthly survey are net of cancellations during the month. They include orders received during the period and also filled during the period as well as those orders received for future delivery. They

also include the net sales value of contract change documents which increase or decrease the sales value of the unfilled orders to which they relate. Orders include only those supported by binding legal documents such as signed contracts, or letter contracts. In case of letter contracts the full amount of the sales value is included if the parties are in substantial agreement on the amount; otherwise, only the funds specifically authorized to be expended are included. The respondent is instructed to deduct the sales value of partial or complete cancellation of existing orders.

Unfilled orders include orders as defined above that have not yet passed through the sales account. Generally, unfilled orders at the end of the reporting period are equal to unfilled orders at the beginning of the period plus net new orders received less net sales.

While both new orders and unfilled orders are used in reviewing individual company reports for consistency, only unfilled orders are estimated directly in the tabulated totals. New orders are derived from the shipments plus net change in unfilled orders for each industry category. This procedure is followed for seasonally adjusted data as well as for the unadjusted data. Shipments and unfilled orders are seasonally adjusted independently. Seasonally adjusted new orders are derived from seasonally adjusted shipments and seasonally adjusted unfilled orders.

